

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KABUL 1381

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TAGS: AGEN, AF

SUBJ: MOVIES

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1. USIS WAS APPROACHED BY MFA IN LATE JUNE 1975
AND QUERIED AS TO AVAILABILITY OF FEATURE FILM FOR SHOWING IN

SOON-TO-BE INAUGURATED MFA RECREATION CLUB. SIMILAR
REQUESTS WERE CONVEYED BY MFA THROUGH ALL LEVELS IN THE MISSION.
IN THIS SAME TIME FRAME, USIS RECEIVED A SERIES OF FIVE WESTERN
FILMS IN EARLY JULY, TO BE PROGRAMMED AS A JULY 4-JESHYN
CELEBRATION ACTIVITY. SINCE THE REQUESTS WERE IDENTIFIED
BY MFA AS ORIGINATING FROM THE DEP. FONMIN HIMSELF IT WAS
DECIDED TO MAKE SEVERAL FILMS AVAILABLE, ON A ONE-TIME-ONLY
BASIS, AS A POSSIBLE MEANS OF ESTABLISHING A COOPERATIVE MFA-
USA PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY. IN THE EVENT, NOTHING COOPERATIVE
TRANSPIRED. THE MFA REPRESENTATIVES IGNORED ALL HINTS AT
COOPERATION AND CHOSE TO SHOW THE FILMS ENTIRELY UNDER
THEIR OWN SUSPICES. PRIMARY USE OF THE FILMS, OF COURSE,
REMAINED THE AMERICAN CENTER PROGRAM.

2. THE CPAO RETURNED WHILE THE AMERICAN CENTER FILM FESTIVAL
WAS STILL IN PROGRESS AND THE SITUATION WAS ANALYZED.
THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED WITH THE AGENCY AND THE AGENCY
INFORMED THE POST THAT THE LEGAL RESTRICTIONS APPLYING TO FILM
LOAN FILMS MUST ALSO APPLY TO AGENCY-RENTED FEATURES. FYI:
THE RESTRICTIONS ARE:
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1) FEATURE FILMS MUST BE SHOWN ON USG PREMISES;

2) NO ADVERTISING PERMITTED; 3) INVITATIONAL PRESTIGE
SHOWINGS MUST BE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN 100 GUESTS PER SHOWING.
END FYI.

3. DURING A SUBSEQUENT VISIT FROM INA, USIS WAS AGAIN INFORMED
THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE AGENCY AND
THAT NO RPT NO EXCEPTIONS COULD BE MADE TO THE RESTRICTIONS.

4. THE FILM FESTIVAL CONCEPT IS A CONTINUING ONE. USIS
HAS PROJECTED SUCH FESTIVALS, ACCORDING TO GENRE, APPROXIMATELY
EVERY FOUR MONTHS. THE SECOND FESTIVAL IN THIS SERIES- THE
DETECTIVE FILM - WAS PROGRAMMED IN THE JAN -6-28 PERIOD.
DURING THIS TIME, MFA REPRESENTATIVES INFOG ALLY CONTACTED USIS
AS WELL AS OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION WITH REQUESTS FOR
USE OF THE FILMS. THE REQUESTS WERE ONCE MORE IDENTIFIED AS
ORIGINATING FROM DEP. FONMIN HIMSELF. THE SITUATION WAS DISCUSSED
WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND THE
RESTRICTIONS WERE EXPLAINED. APPARENTLY, MFA IS UNWILLING
TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THE RESTRICTIONS ARE REAL AND
BINDING FOR USIS.

5. OF COURSE IF THE RESTRICTIONS COULD BE WAIVED, WE
WOULD BE HAPPY TO MAKE USIS FILMS AVAILABLE FOR SUCH
AN IMPORTANT ADUIENCE, PROVIDED IT WOULD BE UNDER JOINT
MFA/USIS SPONSORSHIP.

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